

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

August 11, 2015

The Honorable Gina McCarthy  
Office of the Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

We write to request that you visit San Juan and La Plata Counties in Colorado and host a public meeting to help fully understand and explain the impacts of the Gold King Mine accident on the surrounding communities and listen to our constituents' concerns. Local residents, recreationalists, and business owners need to know that EPA will commit to a full cleanup of the accident and work to ensure the full environmental and economic recovery of the affected area.

To date, at least 3 million gallons of contaminated waste water from the abandoned Gold King Mine have spilled into Cement Creek and the Animas River in southwestern Colorado. Residents remain uncertain as to the dangers posed by this spill, as well as the timeline and recovery plan EPA intends to execute. Gaining an on-the-ground understanding of the situation is important to EPA's response and area residents and officials would appreciate your in-person commitment to an expeditious and thorough cleanup and recovery. The individuals, families, and businesses impacted by EPA's accident deserve nothing less.

We look forward to welcoming you to Colorado and appreciate your prompt response.

Sincerely,

  
Cory Gardner  
United States Senator

  
Michael Bennet  
United States Senator

  
Scott Tipton  
Member of Congress